



Stanley St Andrew's Church of England Primary School

December Newsletter 2016

I can hardly believe that we are at the end of the year. I always tell the children that this is my favourite term, as we all look forward to the Christmas period, where we can be with family and friends.

Thank you to all the parents, who have been so supportive, during the period when Katy was off. I am pleased that she is back and is slowly trying to build up back to full capacity. She was overwhelmed with the flowers and gift card from the parents and staff, she sends her warmest thanks.

Katy is obviously trying to catch up with outstanding payments. It would make things easier if parents ensure all payments are put in separate envelopes so that it is quicker to sort money and we can prioritise payments. Envelopes are available from the office and all school payments must be placed in the silver post box.

Any payments for the PTA must be placed in the **red** post box, school does not have access to this box.

We still have lots to do before we break up on the 20th of December.

Bad Weather

We always try to open school if it is safe. There is a lot to take into consideration before I can make a decision. In the event of bad weather, I will try to notify you by 7am after discussion with Kay, Scargill kitchen and staff. If all staff cannot get into school, we may work on a partial open; where children will be taught as infants or juniors. Those staff who can walk into school will try to ensure that school functions as best as it can, however, this at times may affect our Breakfast and

After school club. Any changes in the day will be done through our text messaging service. It is **essential** that we have the correct mobile numbers, to ensure that in the event of a closure all children are collected and staff are not put at risk. Please start to think about what plans you have in place for bad weather, it is essential that we know who your nominated person to collect your child is. For example, parents in Oakwood might nominate one parent to collect a number of children. Village children may have one person who is going to come and collect them and keep the children with them. Snow is a time where we need to work together and ensure the safety of everyone, whether that be driving, or walking, please be patient. In years gone by, we have asked that parents help to move snow over the weekends and make the path down to school safe, this again will be done via text message.

New Baby

Congratulations to James and Alison on the safe arrival of baby Heidi, we know that Imogen and George are over the moon about the arrival and we welcome Heidi into our family.

On the baby note I am happy to announce that Mrs Rowles who currently works in Golden Eagles on a Friday, is due to have a baby in March. The staff and I are delighted with this news and we wish her the very best throughout her pregnancy. Mrs Rowles will continue to teach on a Friday until February half term. Once arrangements are in place for her cover this will be shared with you all.

New Governors

I am pleased to introduce our new governors: Victoria Beardall as a parent governor and Gill Lynam as the new co-opted governor. I know that both will be valuable assets to our meetings and we will continue, to work hard to move our school forward. This is also a good opportunity for me to thank the governors for all their hard work over the year. The role of a governor is very demanding and requires dedication through time given and the ability to be a strategic thinker. We now have a full governing body who under the leadership of Liz Jackson will ensure that we get best value for money, continue to improve standards for all children and ensure that our children are safe and happy.

Keeping up with technology

Thank you to our amazing PTA we have been able to purchase 10 new desk top computers that have been put in Kingfisher room. The whole school gets the opportunity to use the computers and I believe have made a big difference to Coding Club. It is always a challenge to keep up with technology but we are focused on improving our computers and netbooks to make sure all children have the correct equipment to use as a learning tool.

Our next investment will be buying a new panel for Golden Eagle classroom as their interactive whiteboard is not working correctly. This installation is due to happen next week, which will be paid for by school.

Just a reminder if your child is having a computer, tablet or phone for Christmas please ensure that the settings are relevant to their age.

<http://www1.k9webprotection.com/>

The above is a website that will give you some guidance.

India Appeal

I am sure you will recall that the Diocese challenged all church schools to raise £200 for the Kolkata appeal. I am pleased to say that from all the hard work put in by Lily in Golden Eagles, we have been able to achieve the target. All money raised has come from our tuck shop, so thank you to all the parents and grandparents that supported such a great cause. We also owe thanks to Sarah and Gary from the post office who donated the first items to sell and Liz Jackson for her kind donation. After a discussion with the RE Ambassadors, they would like to keep the tuck shop going in the New Year. We thought it would be nice if any profits made could be split between our Indian school link and a small project that also benefits us as a school. If there is a parent out there who would like to take on the role of purchasing the stock and working with the children to keep an audit of their books, please see me. The role would be buying the stock and ensuring that everything is in date and ready for selling each Friday. The role does not require you to be involved in the selling each Friday, that will be done by the RE Ambassadors.

This year, rather than doing the shoe box appeal, which we believe most people spent about £5 to fill, we thought we would raise money for our Indian school and for the homeless locally. The reason we have chosen these two appeals is because: our link school will need basic resources such as pencils, paper, glue and scissors which will be purchased when I visit in January. In order to support the local economy, I have been advised to take sterling out and purchase the items at the local market. Apparently £100 will set the school up for half a year. This is such a contrast to what we spend on stationary in our little school.

In collective worship the children have been talking about the real purpose of Christmas. From our discussions the children realise that we are very fortunate that we all have somewhere warm and safe to sleep and lots of food to eat. We are mindful that this is not the case for all people in the UK and Derby so we are going to work closely with the Diocese to help feed families. A food bag for a family of four cost £30. We are aiming to raise enough money for four food bags which will total £120.

Lily from Golden Eagles met with a local business man John Oldfield, who owns the Alfa garage in Derby, after telling him all about the work we have been doing for India, Lily asked if he would match fund what we raise. He was more than happy to match fund us and will be visiting school once we confirm how much we have raised. Once we have our total for meal in a bag, we will be taking a small group of children on 22nd of December to give up some of their time to help pack the bags to go out to needy families.

With all this in mind the RE Ambassadors have decided that on 16th of December all children will be able to donate £1 to come to school in non-uniform. All children will get the chance to decorate a cake or biscuit which they can buy at the end of the school day.

If anyone feels able to support this challenge by sending in cakes, biscuits and decorating icing we would be very grateful. Please send decorating items and biscuit in as soon as possible, cakes need to come in on Friday 16th December in the morning.

Thank you to all staff this year rather than sending Christmas cards we have agreed to support the Indian challenge by donating money.

Website

I am delighted to announce that we will be having a new website in 2017. Our current website is not fit for purpose and requires so much effort to keep it up to date. The new website will be launched in January and appears to be very simple to maintain. The website will allow you to access it from a desktop, laptop, tablet and mobile phone. It is crucial that as a school we are able to communicate quickly through the website and keep you updated with the events in school along with dates. My thanks and gratitude go out to Rowenna and Brent (Kayden's parents) for supporting this project.

Application for Reception

Applications for Reception places 2017/18 have opened
Applications at:
www.derbyshire.gov.uk/admissions or
phone 'Call Derbyshire' on 08456 058 058.

Closing Date: Midnight Sunday 15th January 2017

Reminders:

After school club closes at 4:15 on 20th December 2016

Book Christmas dinner 14th December £2

Check your mobile contacts are up to date.

Check your emergency contacts are up to date.

Check your smoke alarms.